1 Sharon Duggan (CA Bar # 105108) Law Offices of Sharon Duggan 2070 Allston Way Suite 300 Berkeley, CA 94704 3 foxsduggan@aol.com Tel: 510.647.1904 4 Brian Litmans (AK Bar # 0111068) 5 7107 Holly Ave Takoma Park, MD 20912 6 Tel: 301.775.1167 Fax: 301.587.2619 litmans@prodigy.net Pro Hac Vice 8 Simeon Herskovits (NM Bar # 16860) Western Environmental Law Center P.O. Box 1507 10 Taos, NM 87571 Tel: 505.751.0351 11 Fax: 505.751.1775 herskovits@westernlaw.org 12 Pro Hac Vice 13 Andrea K. Rodgers (OR Bar # 04102) Western Environmental Law Center 14 1216 Lincoln St. Eugene, OR 97401 15 Tel: 541.485.2471 Fax: 541.485.2457 16 rodgers@westernlaw.org Pro Hac Vice 17 Attorneys for Plaintiffs 18 19 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 20 FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION 21 22 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION Case No.: __04-CV-4647-CRB_ **INFORMATION CENTER**, a non-profit 23 AMENDED COMPLAINT FOR Californian corporation, FRIENDS OF 24 **DECLARATORY AND INJUNCTIVE** THE VAN DUZEN, a community-based RELIEF grassroots watershed protection 25 organization,

AMENDED COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF - 1

Law Offices of Sharon Duggan 2070 Allston Way Ste 300, Berkeley, CA 94704 (510) 647-1904 Plaintiffs,

V.

U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE,
NOAA FISHERIES; PACIFIC LUMBER
COMPANY, a Delaware corporation;
SCOTIA PACIFIC COMPANY LLC, a
Delaware corporation; SALMON CREEK
LLC, a Delaware corporation; DOES 1
through 30,

Defendants.

INTRODUCTION

- 1. This is a civil action for declaratory and injunctive relief.
- 2. By this suit Plaintiffs Environmental Protection Information Center ("EPIC") and Friends of the Van Duzen ("FOVD") challenge the actions and omissions of Defendants U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ("FWS") and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries (formerly the National Marine Fisheries Service, or "NOAA Fisheries") (collectively "Federal Defendants") that violate federal laws and their implementing regulations by: failing to supplement a 1999 Environmental Impact Statement ("EIS") under the National Environmental Policy Act ("NEPA"); failing to reinitiate consultation under the Endangered Species Act ("ESA"); improperly approving a Biological Opinion ("BO"), Habitat Conservation Plan ("HCP") and Incidental Take Permit ("ITP") in violation of the ESA; unlawfully approving the HCP and ITP without finding that PL would minimize and mitigate the impacts of its taking of listed species, including the marbled murrelet and coho salmon, to the maximum extent practicable in violation of the ESA; unlawfully permitting the take of listed threatened species in

violation of the ESA; violating the water quality standards and antidegradation policy of the Clean Water Act ("CWA"); unlawfully committing irreversible and irretrievable resources under the ESA; and unlawfully issuing incidental take permits for the northern sported owl under the ESA – all arising from Federal Defendants' approval and ongoing oversight of the Habitat Conservation Plan/Incidental Take Permit for the properties of Pacific Lumber Company, Scotia Pacific Holding Company, and Salmon Creek Corporation (collectively, "PL"), in Humboldt County, California.

3. By this suit Plaintiffs EPIC and FOVD also challenge the actions and omissions of Defendant Pacific Lumber that violate federal laws and their implementing regulations by illegally taking listed threatened species and causing the improper irreversible and irretrievable commitment of resources in violation of the ESA, and that violate the California Business and Professional Code Section 17200, *et seq.*, by committing unlawful business practices, unfair, deceptive, untrue or misleading advertising, fraudulent business practices, false advertising, and misleading environmental marketing claims.

JURISDICTION

4. Jurisdiction is proper in this Court under 28 U.S.C. § 1331 (federal question) and 28 U.S.C. § 1346 (federal defendant) because this action arises under the law of the United States, including the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4331 et seq., Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1531 et seq., the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1251 et. seq., and the Administrative Procedure Act ("APA"), 5 U.S.C. §§ 701-706 and involves the United States as a defendant, and under 28 U.S.C. § 1367 (supplemental jurisdiction). There is a present, actual and justiciable controversy between the parties, and the requested relief is therefore proper under 28 U.S.C. § 2201 (declaratory relief) and § 2202 (injunctive relief), 16 U.S.C. §§ 1540(c) and (g)

(action arising under the ESA and citizen suit provision), and 5 U.S.C. §§ 701-706. Plaintiffs may be entitled to an award of costs and attorneys fees pursuant to the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. § 1540(g), and/or the Equal Access to Justice Act, 28 U.S.C. § 2412 and California Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5.

5. To the extent required by the citizen suit provision of the ESA at 16 U.S.C. § 1540(g), Plaintiffs fully informed Defendants of the claims in this suit over sixty days ago.

Defendants have neither adequately answered nor remedied the alleged violations. Therefore, an actual controversy exists between the parties within the meaning of 28 U.S.C. § 2201.

VENUE AND INTRADISTRICT ASSIGNMENT

- 6. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to 16 U.S.C. § 1540(g)(3)(A) because the violations occur in this district and pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391 because all or a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claims herein occurred within this judicial district, Defendants maintain offices in this district, the lands and resources in question are located in this district, and Plaintiffs EPIC and FOVD maintain offices in this district.
- 7. Intradistrict Assignment is proper in this district and division. Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 3-2(d), the appropriate intradistrict assignment of this case is San Francisco Division because the area in which the action arises is located in Humboldt County, and because EPIC has offices and members in Humboldt County and FOVD is based in and has members throughout Humboldt County.

PARTIES

8. Plaintiff ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION INFORMATION CENTER is a non-profit corporation that is registered in California and dedicated to the preservation, protection, and restoration of biodiversity, native species, watersheds and natural ecosystems in

northern California. EPIC maintains its offices in Humboldt County, California. EPIC has over 3,000 members, many of whom reside in Humboldt County, including the watersheds of the Eel River, Van Duzen River, Mattole River, Elk River, Freshwater Creek, and Mad River. These watersheds serve as the domestic water source and provide other beneficial uses for EPIC's members, including swimming and other recreational activities. These members are adversely impacted by nutrients, sediment, and other pollution that is discharged into these watersheds, and rely on the proper implementation of conservation laws to ensure the uses of these rivers and streams are protected and restored.

- 9. EPIC's members and staff regularly use lands throughout California, including lands adjoining, neighboring, and/or downstream from PL's forestlands, to observe nature, enjoy wild fish, birds, including endangered birds such as the marbled murrelet and northern spotted owl, and the natural ecosystems in which these species live, and pursue other recreational, scientific, and educational activities. EPIC's members and staff have researched, studied, observed and sought protection for many species listed under the Endangered Species Act, including chinook salmon and steelhead trout, as well as marbled murrelets and northern spotted owls. EPIC's members and staff derive scientific, recreational, conservation, spiritual and aesthetic benefits from the existence of wild salmonids, marbled murrelets, northern spotted owls, the habitats they depend upon and other species associated with redwood and Douglas fir forests.
- 10. EPIC actively participated in PL's application process for a Habitat Conservation Plan ("HCP") and Incidental Take Permit ("ITP"), providing written and oral comments on their legal and biological implications. Additionally, EPIC regularly participates in the review of individual Timber Harvest Plans ("THPs") that are proposed by PL pursuant to its HCP and ITP.

EPIC brings this action on behalf of itself and its adversely affected members and staff.

- 11. Plaintiff FRIENDS OF THE VAN DUZEN is a community, grassroots organization comprised of residents of and visitors to the Van Duzen River watershed. Members of FOVD regularly enjoy the beneficial uses of the Van Duzen River and its tributaries, including fishing, swimming, and hiking along its shores. Its members are dedicated to the preservation and restoration of the Van Duzen River, and to this end, FOVD is involved in educational work within the schools, commenting on proposed logging operations, participating in stream restoration projects, and other efforts to prevent further degradation of the Van Duzen and return the Van Duzen to its former glory. FOVD brings this action on behalf of itself and its adversely affected members.
- 12. FOVD has participated actively in various stages of the implementation of the HCP and ITP, providing written and oral comments on the legal, biological and recreational implications of the watershed assessment process under the HCP's Aquatics Conservation Plan and providing written and oral comments in the course of the review and approval process for numerous THPs proposed by Defendant PL pursuant to the HCP and ITP.
- 13. The aesthetic, recreational, moral, spiritual, religious, educational, conservation, and scientific interests of Plaintiffs' members have been and will continue to be adversely affected and irreparably injured if Defendants continue to act and fail to act as alleged herein. These are actual, concrete injuries caused by the Federal Defendants' violation of mandatory duties under the ESA, NEPA, and the CWA and Defendant PL's violations of its legal duties under the ESA and California law. These injuries would be redressed by the relief sought.
- 14. Defendant UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE ("FWS") is an agency or instrumentality of the United States, empowered by Congress to administer the

Endangered Species Act with respect to terrestrial and non-marine aquatic species.

- 15. Defendant NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION FISHERIES ("NOAA Fisheries") is an agency or instrumentality of the United States, empowered by Congress to administer the Endangered Species Act with respect to marine species.
- 16. Defendant PACIFIC LUMBER COMPANY ("PL") is and was at all times relevant hereto, a corporation organized and existing under the laws of Delaware, with its principal offices in Scotia, Humboldt County, California. PL is a wholly-owned subsidiary of MAXXAM Group Inc. SCOTIA PACIFIC COMPANY LLC ("SCOPAC") is and was at all times relevant hereto, a corporation organized and existing under the laws of Delaware, with principal offices in Scotia, Humboldt County, California. SCOPAC is a wholly-owned subsidiary of PL. SCOPAC is the successor to SCOTIA PACIFIC HOLDING COMPANY. SALMON CREEK LLC ("Salmon Creek") is and was at all times relevant hereto, a corporation organized and existing under the laws of Delaware, with its principle offices in Scotia, Humboldt County, California. Salmon Creek is a wholly-owned subsidiary of PL. For ease of reference, PL, SCOPAC, and Salmon Creek are collectively referred herein as PL.
- 17. Plaintiffs are unaware of the true names and capacities of Defendants DOES 1 through 30, inclusive, and therefore sue said Defendants under fictitious names. Plaintiff will amend the complaint to show the true names and capacities of DOES 1 through 30 when the same have been ascertained. Each of the corporate Defendants is the agent and/or employee of each of the other corporate Defendants, and each performed acts on which this action is based within the course and scope of such Defendants' agency and/or employment. Plaintiff is informed and believes and therefore alleges that each of the corporate Defendants is legally

responsible in some manner for the events and happenings referred to herein.

LEGAL BACKGROUD

The Endangered Species Act

- 18. The Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. § 1531 <u>et seq.</u>, was enacted, in part, to provide a "means whereby the ecosystems upon which endangered species and threatened species depend may be conserved ... [and] a program for the conservation of such endangered species and threatened species" 16 U.S.C. § 1531(b).
- 19. In order to fulfill these purposes, Federal agencies are required to consult with Defendant FWS and/or Defendant NOAA Fisheries to "insure that any action authorized, funded, or carried out by such agency . . . is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered species or threatened species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of habitat of such species which is determined by the Secretary . . . to be critical" 16 U.S.C. § 1536(a)(2) ("Section 7 consultation").
- 20. Section 7 consultation is required for "any action [that] may affect listed species or critical habitat." 50 C.F.R. § 402.14. An agency "action" is defined in the ESA's implementing regulation to include "actions directly or indirectly causing modifications to the land, water, or air." 50 C.F.R. § 402.02.
- 21. At the completion of the Section 7 consultation process Defendant FWS or Defendant NOAA Fisheries issues a Biological Opinion ("BO") that determines if the agency action is likely to jeopardize the species' continued survival or result in the destruction or adverse modification of the species' critical habitat. If so, the opinion may specify "Reasonable and Prudent Alternatives" designed to avoid jeopardy while allowing the agency to proceed with the action. 16 U.S.C. § 1536(b).

- 22. In making their determinations regarding jeopardy to listed species and the destruction or adverse modification of those species' critical habitat, Defendants FWS and NOAA Fisheries are required to "use the best scientific and commercial data available." 16 U.S.C. § 1536(a)(2); 50 C.F.R. § 402.14(d).
 - 23. The agency "shall" reinitiate formal consultation with FWS:
 - (a) If the amount or extent of taking specified in the incidental take statement is exceeded;
 - (b) If new information reveals effects of the action that may affect listed species or critical habitat in a manner or to an extent not previously considered;
 - (c) If the identified action is subsequently modified in a manner that causes an effect to the listed species or critical habitat that was not considered in the biological opinion;

. . . .

50 C.F.R. §§ 402.16(b) and (c).

- 24. Section 9 of the ESA prohibits the "take" of any fish or wildlife species listed under the ESA as endangered; under Federal regulation, take of fish or wildlife species listed as threatened is also prohibited unless otherwise specifically authorized by regulation. 16 U.S.C. § 1538(a)(1). Section 9 of the ESA also prohibits any person to attempt to commit, solicit another to commit, or cause to be committed any take that is not properly authorized. 16 U.S.C. § 1538(g).
- 25. "Incidental take" of endangered and threatened species of wildlife by non-Federal entities is permitted if certain conditions are satisfied under Section 10 of the ESA. 16 U.S.C. § 1539(a)(1).
- 26. In order to receive an Incidental Take Permit ("ITP") from the FWS and/or NOAA Fisheries, the applicant must submit a "Habitat Conservation Plan" ("HCP") which specifies: (1) how the proposed activity will likely affect listed species; (2) what steps the

applicant will take to monitor, minimize, and mitigate such impacts, and what funding will be available to carry out these steps; (3) what alternative actions to such taking the applicant considered and the reasons why such alternatives are not being utilized; and (4) such other measures that the FWS and/or NOAA Fisheries may require as being necessary or appropriate for purposes of the plan. 16 U.S.C. § 1539(a)(2)(A)(i)-(iv).

- 27. The FWS and/or NOAA Fisheries shall issue an ITP to the applicant if they find (1) that the take will be incidental, (2) that the applicant will, to the maximum extent practicable, minimize and mitigate the impacts of such taking, (3) that the applicant will ensure that adequate funding will be provided, (4) that the taking will not appreciably reduce the likelihood of survival and recovery of the species, and (5) that the measures, if any, required by FWS and/or NOAA Fisheries will be met. 16 U.S.C. § 1539(a)(2)(B). FWS and/or NOAA Fisheries shall revoke a permit if the applicant fails to comply with the terms and conditions of the permit. 16 U.S.C. § 1539(a)(2)(C).
- 28. Issuance of an ITP is a Federal action subject to Section 7 of the ESA. <u>See</u> FWS and NOAA Fisheries Habitat Conservation Planning Handbook at 1-6 and 6-12 to 6-18. This means that the FWS and/or NOAA Fisheries must conduct an internal (or intra-Service) formal Section 7 consultation on permit issuance.
- 29. Since the issuance of an ITP is a Federal action that will clearly result in take and the Section 7 implementing regulations, 50 C.F.R. 402.14(i), require an incidental take statement ("ITS") in a BO where the Federal action is expected to result in take, the resultant BO for the HCP/ITP will include incidental take statements. Any reasonable and prudent measures or terms and conditions provided in the ITS should be consistent with the conservation program in the HCP.

- 30. Section 7(d) of the ESA provides that the pending completion of formal consultation with the FWS and/or NOAA Fisheries, the action agency "shall not make any irreversible or irretrievable commitment of resources with respect to the agency action which has the effect of foreclosing the formulation or implementation of any reasonable and prudent alternative measures which would not violate subsection (a)(2) of this section." 16 U.S.C. § 1536(d); 50 C.F.R. § 402.09. The intent of Section 7(d) is to avoid harm to the affected species pending the completion of interagency consultation.
- 31. Section 10 of the ESA creates an exception to the general ban on taking. Under that section, the Federal Defendants may issue a permit allowing "any taking otherwise prohibited by Section 1538(a)(1)(B) of this title if such taking is incidental to, and not the purpose of, the carrying out of an otherwise lawful activity." 16 U.S.C. § 1539(a)(1)(B). Several conditions must be met prior to the grant of an incidental take permit. The applicant for the permit must submit a conservation plan, known as a "Habitat Conservation Plan" or "HCP," that describes:
 - (i) the impact which will likely result from such taking; (ii) what steps the applicant will take to minimize and mitigate such impacts ...; (iii) what alternative actions to such taking the applicant considered and the reasons why such alternatives are not being utilized; and (iv) such other measures that the Secretary may require as being necessary or appropriate for purposes of the plan.

<u>Id.</u> § 1539(a)(2)(A). The Federal Defendants must publish notice of the permit application in the Federal Register, and "information received by the [Federal Defendants] as part of [the] application shall be available to the public as a matter of public record at every stage of the proceeding." <u>Id.</u> § 1539(c). The Federal Defendants also must provide an "opportunity for public comment" on the application and related conservation plan. <u>Id.</u> § 1539(a)(2)(B). Finally,

before issuing the permit the Federal Defendants must make certain specified findings. These include findings that the taking will be incidental, that it "will not appreciably reduce the likelihood of the survival and recovery of the species in the wild," and that "the applicant will, to the maximum extent practicable, minimize and mitigate the impacts of such taking." Id.

The National Environmental Policy Act

- 32. Issuance of an ITP, under and HCP, is a Federal action subject to NEPA compliance. See FWS and NOAA Fisheries Habitat Conservation Planning Handbook at 1-6.
- 33. A central purpose of NEPA is to ensure that an agency "will not act on incomplete information, only to regret its decision after it is too late to correct." Marsh v. Oregon Natural Resources Council, 490 U.S. 360, 374 (1989); Friends of the Clearwater v. Dombeck, 222 F. 3d 552, 557-558 (9th Cir. 2000). In view of this purpose, an agency cannot simply rest on an existing environmental review document but must instead take a "hard look" at new information that might alter the results of its original environmental analysis. <u>Id.</u> at 374.
- 34. Federal agencies must prepare supplements to either draft or final EIS's if there "are significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed action or its impacts." 40 C.F.R. § 1502.9 (c)(1).
- 35. NEPA imposes a continuing duty to supplement previous environmental documents. Stop H-3 Ass'n v. Dole, 740 F.2d 1442, 1463 (9th Cir. 1984). "A federal agency has a continuing duty to gather and evaluate new information relevant to the environmental impact of its actions. . . . [W]hen new information comes to light the agency must consider it, evaluate it, and make a reasoned determination whether it is of such significance as to require [an SEIS]."

 Warm Springs Dam Task Force v. Gribble, 621 F.2d 1017, 1024 (9th Cir. 1980).
 - 36. The decision whether to prepare a supplemental EIS is similar to the decision

whether to prepare an EIS in the first instance: "If there remains 'major Federal actio[n]' to occur, and if the new information is sufficient to show that the remaining action will 'affec[t] the quality of the human environment' in a significant manner or to a significant extent not already considered, a supplemental EIS must be prepared." See Marsh v. Oregon Natural Res. Council, 490 U.S. 360, 374 (1989); Friends of the Clearwater v. Dombeck, 222 F.3d at 557-558.

- 37. A NEPA document is no longer adequate when "[t]here are significant new . . . circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed action or its impacts." 40 C.F.R. § 1502.9(c)(1)(ii). "Reliance on stale scientific evidence is sufficient to require re-examination of an EIS." City of Carmel-by-the-Sea v. U.S. Dept of Transportation, 95 F.3d 892, 900 (9th Cir. 1995). At that point the agency must wait until it has supplemented the EA or EIS with the new information, before taking further actions based on the outdated EIS. 40 C.F.R. 1502.9(c)(1)(ii). NEPA requirements must be fulfilled "before decisions are made and before actions are taken." *Id.* at §§ 1500.1(b), 1502.5; Save the Yaak Committee v. Block, 840 F.2d 714, 718 (9th Cir. 1988).
- 38. A supplemental document is necessary where new information "presents a seriously different picture of the likely environmental consequences of the proposed action not adequately envisioned by the original EIS." <u>Wisconsin v. Weinberger</u>, 745 F.2d 412, 420 (7th Cir. 1984).
- 39. A change in information, requiring NEPA supplementation "need not be strictly environmental . . .; the test is whether the new information so alters the project's character that a new 'hard-look' at the environmental consequences is needed. . . . [I]nformation 'that does not seriously change the environmental picture, but that nevertheless affects, or could affect, the decisionmaking process, is subject to the procedural requirements of NEPA." <u>Natural</u>

Resources Defense Council v. Lujan, 768 F. Supp. 870, 886-87 (D.D.C. 1991) (quoting Sierra Club v. Froehlke, 816 F.2d 205, 210, 212 (5th Cir. 1987).

40. When new information comes to light the agency must consider it, evaluate it, and make a reasoned determination whether it is of such significance as to require implementation of formal NEPA filing requirements. Warm Springs Dam II v. Gribble, 621 F.2d 1017, 1024 (9th Cir.1980). Reasonableness depends on the environmental significance of the new information, the probable accuracy of the information, the degree of care with which the agency considered the information and evaluated its impact, and the degree to which the agency supported its decision not to supplement with a statement of explanation or additional data. <u>Id</u>.

The Clean Water Act

- 41. The primary objective of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, commonly referred to as the Clean Water Act ("CWA"), is "to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation's waters." 33 U.S.C § 1251(a). Case authority supports the interpretation that the CWA requires maintenance of the natural structure of streams: the "Clean Water Act should be construed broadly to encompass deleterious environmental effects of projects." Riverside Irrigation Dist. v. Andrews, 568 F. Supp. 583, 588 (D. Colo. 1983), aff'd 758 F.2d 508 (10th Cir. 1983).
- 42. Under the Clean Water Act, all federal agencies must comply with state water quality standards and the antidegradation policy. 33 U.S.C. §§ 1313, 1323(a). Judicial review of this requirement is available under the Administrative Procedure Act. Oregon Natural Resources Council v. United States Forest Service, 834 F.2d 842, 852 (9th Cir.1987); Idaho Sporting Congress v. Thomas, 137 F.3d 1146, 1153 (9th Cir. 1998); Marble Mountain Audubon Soc'y v. Rice, 914 F.2d 179, 182-83 (9th Cir. 1990); Oregon Natural Resources Council v. Lyng, 882

F.2d 1417, 1424-25 (9th Cir. 1989) ("The CWA also requires states to implement water quality standards with which federal agencies must comply."); Northwest Indian Cemetery Protective

Ass'n v. Peterson, 795 F.2d 688 (9th Cir. 1986), rev'd on other grounds sub. nom. Lyng v.

Northwest Indian Cemetery Protective Ass'n, 485 U.S. 439 (1988); NWF v. Corps of Engineers,

92 F. Supp.2d 1072 (D. Or. 2000) and 132 F.Supp. 2d 876 (D. Or. 2001) (finding that federal agency failed to address compliance with state water quality standards in its operation of dams on the Snake River).

- 43. "A water quality standard defines the water quality goals of a water body, or portion thereof, by designating the use or uses to be made of the water and by setting criteria necessary to protect the uses." 40 CFR § 131.2. EPA regulations implementing the CWA define designated uses of water as "those uses specified in water quality standards for each water body or segment whether or not they are being attained." 40 CFR § 131.3(f). The minimal designated use for a water body is the "fishable/swimmable" designation, which "provides for the protection and propagation of fish, shellfish, and wildlife and provides for recreation in and on the water." 33 U.S.C. § 1251(a)(2).
 - 44. The U.S. Supreme Court has held that:

The text [of the CWA] makes it plain that water quality standards contain two components. We think the language of § 303 is most naturally read to require that a project be consistent with *both* components, namely, the designated uses *and* the water quality criteria. Accordingly, under the literal terms of the statute, a project that does not comply with a designated use of the water does not comply with the applicable water quality standards.

- PUD No. 1 of Jefferson County v. Washington Department of Ecology, 511 U.S. 700, 714-715 (1994).
 - 45. According to federal regulation, applicable antidegradation policies "shall, at a

minimum, be consistent with . . . [e]xisting instream water uses and the level of water quality necessary to protect the existing uses shall be maintained and protected." 40 CFR §131.12(a)(1). Under this regulation, "'no activity is allowable . . . which could *partially* or completely eliminate any existing use." PUD No. 1, 511 U.S. at 718-19 (citing EPA, Questions and Answers on Antidegradation 3 (Aug. 1985)). Therefore, the antidegradation policy serves to protect the existing uses of all streams. Any activity which would even *partially* eliminate those uses is not permitted.

- 46. Under the antidegradation policy, existing uses are recognized as all beneficial uses that humans, native plants, invertebrates, mammal, bird, and other species have derived from waterbodies since November 28, 1975. 40 CFR 131.12(a)(1).
- 47. The EPA's regulations establish three levels of water quality protection: Tier I, Tier II, and Tier III. Tier I protection establishes the minimum water quality standard for all waters and requires that "[e]xisting instream water uses and the level of water quality necessary to protect the existing uses shall be maintained and protected." 40 C.F.R. § 131.12(a)(1). Tier II protection provides that, where the water quality of a water body exceeds that necessary to support aquatic life and recreation, that level of water quality shall be maintained unless the state determines that "allowing lower water quality is necessary to accommodate important economic or social development in the area in which the waters are located." 40 C.F.R. § 131.12(a)(2). Tier III protection provides that, where a water body "constitute[s] an outstanding National resource, such as waters of National and State parks and wildlife refuges and waters of exceptional recreational or ecological significance, that water quality shall be maintained and protected." 40 C.F.R. § 131.12(a)(3). Watercourses that have been listed under the Federal and/or California Wild and Scenic River Acts, such as the Van Duzen and Eel Rivers, and those

that have special recreational recognition as state or county parks, such as the watercourses flowing through Grizzly Creek State Park, Cheatem Grove, Pamplin Grove and Swimmer's Delight on the Van Duzen, are entitled to Tier III protection.

48. The California State Water Resources Control Board, Resolution No. 68-16, sets out California's water quality standards, including the potential and existing beneficial uses and the state's antidegradation policy.

California Unfair Competition Law

- 49. Unfair competition is prohibited by the State of California's Unfair Competition Law ("UCL"). Cal Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200. Unfair competition is defined to mean and include any unlawful, unfair or fraudulent business act or practice. Bus & Prof Code § 17200. Any unlawful business practice, including violations of laws for which there is no direct private right of action, may be redressed by private action under UCL. *See* Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200. It is not necessary that predicate law provide for private civil enforcement in order for a citizen to bring an action pursuant to Section 17200. Id.
- 50. Violations of the California Forest Practice Act, California Forest Practice Rules, the HCP, and/or the ITP constitute violations of the UCL. <u>Id</u>. Similarly, false and deceptive advertisements are prohibited by and constitute a violation of the UCL. <u>Id</u>. and 17500.
- 51. Section 17203 of the UCL states that "Any person who engages, has engaged, or proposes to engage in unfair competition may be enjoined in any court of competent jurisdiction. The court may make such orders or judgments, including the appointment of a receiver, as may be necessary to prevent the use or employment by any person of any practice which constitutes unfair competition, as defined in this chapter, or as may be necessary to restore to any person in interest any money or property, real or personal, which may have been acquired by means of

such unfair competition."

FACTS GIVING RISE TO PLAINTIFFS' CAUSE OF ACTION

Background

- 52. Underlying this dispute are approximately 211,000 acres of land owned and operated by PL. These lands are comprised of redwood and Douglas fir forests and are home to a number of imperiled species, including the marbled murrelet, coho salmon, chinook salmon, steelhead trout, coastal cutthroat trout, northern spotted owl, bald eagle, American peregrine falcon, northern goshawk, western snowy plover, bank swallow, Pacific fisher, Humboldt marten, red tree vole, Townsend's big-eared bat, foothill yellow-legged frog, tailed frog, southern torrent salamander, and northwestern pond turtle. PL lands occur primarily in watersheds of the Elk, Van Duzen, Eel, Bear, Salt, and Mattole Rivers.
- 53. Of the species listed above, the American peregrine falcon, northern spotted owl, marbled murrelet, coho salmon, chinook salmon, steelhead trout, coastal cutthroat trout, bald eagle, and western snowy plover are listed as endangered or threatened under the ESA.
- 54. The marbled murrelet also has recognized critical habitat under the ESA. Of the areas identified as critical habitat, approximately 40,417 acres are owned by PL and other private entities and another 97,000 acres of government-owned land are in proximity to the PL lands.
- 55. NOAA Fisheries also has designated critical habitat for the coho salmon pursuant to the ESA. *See* 64 Fed. Reg. 24049. This critical habitat includes all of the watersheds that are affected by logging operations carried out by PL, including Freshwater Creek, Elk River, Van Duzen River, Eel River, Bear River, and Mattole River.
- 56. The marbled murrelet faces the serious threat of extinction because it relies on old-growth forests, and exclusively on ancient redwood and Douglass fir forests in northern

California for nesting and foraging. There is no evidence that murrelets can survive in second-growth forests. FWS's Recovery Plan for the marbled murrelet stresses that its survival depends on the protection of all nesting habitat that currently exists. It also stresses that there should be very little loss of forests that could develop into murrelet habitat over the next 50 to 100 years.

- 57. The old-growth and residual forests on PL lands, including the six ancient groves of Headwaters Forest, are critical nesting areas for the California murrelet population. These forests form a crucial biological link between murrelet habitat areas in Redwood National Park to the north and Humboldt Redwoods State Park to the south. The link is so crucial, and the species as a whole so imperiled, that some murrelet experts believe loss of the remaining PL groves could trigger a collapse of the population throughout California and beyond.
- 58. The old-growth and residual forests on PL lands also provide spawning and rearing habitat for coho salmon, chinook salmon, steelhead trout, and coastal cutthroat trout.
- 59. Salmonids are anadromous fish, spending the first several months of their lives in freshwater streams and rivers before migrating out to sea. When their life-cycles are complete, they return to the streams of their birth, where they spawn and then die. Coho and chinook salmon and steelhead trout depend on clean cold freshwater habitat at the juvenile and spawning stages of their lives. They require clean gravel beds where they dig their redds, which are depressions in the streambed into which they lay their eggs. Recently hatched young, known as alevins, remain in the gravel substrate until they are sufficiently developed to swim on their own. Fingerling and juvenile salmon and steelhead spend many months (or in the case of coho, sometimes more than a year) growing to maturity in the freshwater streams and rivers.
- 60. Coho salmon spawn between November and January and occasionally into February and March.

- 61. Salmonids are extremely sensitive to high water temperatures and high concentrations of sediment. Sustained temperatures much over 70 degrees Fahrenheit can kill coho and chinook salmon and steelhead trout. Dense, shady forest along the stream banks, as well as deep sheltering pools, are essential for salmonid survival. Reduction of the shade canopy and loss of downed woody debris (essential for the creation of pools) can significantly impact salmonids.
- 62. Sedimentation due to logging also presents a serious threat to the survival of salmonids. Logging and road building on the steep, erodible hillsides of coastal Northern California can flush hundreds of thousands of cubic yards of fine sediment into streams and rivers each winter. Loss of root structure also contributes to increased sedimentation. This sediment clogs the gravel substrate that poses a significant threat to spawning salmon; suffocating newly laid eggs, reducing available protective habitat for alevins, and reducing suitable habitat to lay eggs.
- 63. Industrial forestry also significantly alters the hydrology of coastal watersheds, affecting the way each winter's tremendous volume of rainfall moves through the soil and into local streams. During heavy rains, logged-over areas have a tendency to liquefy, sending a "debris torrent" composed or rock and mud coursing down hillsides and into stream channels. In 1998, such a torrent, originating on a PL clearcut, destroyed seven homes in the town of Stafford, California. Another torrent, also originating from a PL clearcut, devastated most of the salmon habitat in the Bear Creek watershed during the same January1, 1998 storm event. PL's timber harvesting under the HCP and ITP has continued to have devastating impacts on salmon habitat that were not adequately considered in the BO, HCP, or ITP, including debris torrents and buildup of sediment walls from four to eight feet high at the mouths of tributary creeks, such as

Grizzly and Hely Creeks in the Van Duzen watershed, effectively obliterating salmon habitat in those portions of the affected watersheds.

64. Estimates of historic coho populations in Northern California and Southern Oregon range from 125,000 to 400,000. Today, only about 10,000 wild, naturally spawning coho remain in this region.

PL's HCP and ITP

- 65. On June 12, 1998, PL applied for an ITP from the FWS and NOAA Fisheries. *See* 63 Fed. Reg. 37900. The ITP would authorize PL to incidentally take 17 listed species and some species that are not currently listed, but may become listed during the fifty-year period for which the ITP would allow take.
- 66. In July 1998, in conjunction with its permit application, PL submitted a proposed HCP in accordance with the requirements of ESA Section 10(a)(2)(A)), 16 U.S.C. § 1539(a)(2)(A), and a proposed Implementation Agreement. 63 Fed. Reg. 37900.
- 67. As part of the process leading up to the issuance of the ITP, FWS and NOAA conducted an internal ESA Section 7 consultation over the Federal Defendants' proposal to issue an ITP to PL pursuant to Section 10(a)(1)(B) and its implementing regulations at 50 C.F.R. Parts 17 and 222, respectively.
 - 68. Concurrently, the Federal Defendants also prepared an EIS for the HCP.
- 69. On February 24, 1999, FWS and NOAA Fisheries issued a joint BO, including an Incidental Take Statement ("ITS") pursuant to Section 7 of ESA, 16 U.S.C. § 1536 on PL's request for the ITP.
- 70. On February 25, 1999, the Federal Defendants finalized their Record of Decision ("ROD") supporting the issuance of the ITP and related actions.

- 71. On February 26, 1999 FWS and NOAA Fisheries issued the ITP to Pacific Lumber, pursuant to Section 10 of the ESA, upon finalization of the Headwaters Agreement.
- 72. On March 1, 1999, the Headwaters Agreement was finalized and both the BO and the ITP were released.
- 73. The ITP allowed PL to take unspecified numbers of covered species, including marbled murrelet and coho salmon, in the course of logging and other specified activities on PL property.
- 74. The ITP for the marbled murrelet allows PL to log 10,000 acres of potentially suitable marbled murrelet nesting habitat, including 2,225 acres of Critical Habitat that was designated for its survival. See EIS/EIR Table 3.10-6. This represents an unprecedented amount of authorized "take" for this highly imperiled seabird.
- 75. To offset this "take," PL was required to "set aside" certain areas of old-growth and residual forest for the next fifty years. However, these "marbled murrelet conservation areas" ("MMCAs") do not provide permanent protection.

Marbled Murrelets

A. New Information Indicates Oil Spills Have Greater Impact than Expected.

76. In November 1997, the M/V Kure spilled substantial quantities of oil in Humboldt Bay. PL's HCP includes a brief discussion of the M/V Kure oil spill, but modeling efforts to assess the impacts to the marbled murrelet were not completed when the HCP was approved.

See PL HCP page 135. It was only known that nine murrelets were found dead from the spill, and that the "actual mortality was probably several times higher." Id. Modeling efforts have since been completed, and this information shows the number of birds killed was much greater

than contemplated in the HCP, with approximately 151 murrelets perishing in the M/V Kure oil spill.

- 77. In September 1999, the Bean-Stuyvesant oil spill occurred just outside Humboldt Bay, killing approximately 135 individual murrelets. Together with the M/V Kure spill, it is believed these two spills caused direct mortality to approximately 10% of the Marbled Murrelet Conservation Zone ("MMCZ") 4 population, which includes the PL property.
- 78. Another significant oil spill, from the New Carissa, occurred in Coos Bay, Oregon in February and March 1999, after the effects analysis of the PL HCP had been completed. The spill was in the southern part of Zone 3 and killed an estimated 262 murrelets. Also following completion of the effects analysis, FWS revised downward its estimate of the Zone 6 population.

B. New Information Indicates that Murrelets Do Not Use Conserved Habitat.

- 79. New information shows that for a period of time, murrelets will not use some of the conserved habitat that the BO anticipated would be used.
- 80. The Humboldt Bay-area oil spills killed murrelets that would otherwise have occupied and bred in habitat that the HCP conserved as mitigation for other murrelet habitat currently being logged by Pacific Lumber.
- 81. A significant period of time will elapse before this depopulated habitat, relied upon by the BO to mitigate the loss of other murrelet habitat, becomes colonized by murrelets. New information therefore shows the impacts from the HCP will be larger than anticipated because the mitigation analyzed in the FEIS/EIR will not work effectively.

C. New Information Indicates FWS Underestimated Level of Take.

82. New information shows that FWS underestimated the HCP's take of murrelets by relying on surveys that took place in abnormal conditions and under-counted murrelets.

- 83. Surveys of potential murrelet habitat done after the November 1997 M/V Kure spill under-counted murrelet occupancy compared to "normal" circumstances and, therefore, underestimated the number of murrelets affected by the HCP. The post-Kure surveys determined not the "normal" level of occupancy, but rather an occupancy level temporarily reduced because of mortality from the M/V Kure spill. As a result, these surveys underestimated the amount of occupied habitat in areas that will be logged, and resulted in an underestimation of the impact of HCP to murrelet in the bioregion.
- 84. While the BO and ITP did not quantify the level of take in terms of individual murrelets, they did specify take in terms of murrelet habitat affected and the value of that habitat. For the reason described above, the value of destroyed habitat exceeds the level specified in the ITP/ITS.
- 85. The BO overestimated the usefulness of the conserved habitat because it did not anticipate depopulation caused by oil spills.
- 86. The BO also underestimated the value of the habitat designated for logging, wrongly concluding that habitat found unoccupied was normally unoccupied, because FWS did not know that surveys were temporarily affected by the November 1997 spill.
- D. HCP Has Greater Impact than Previously Considered on the Murrelet Population's Survival and Recovery.
- 87. New information shows that fewer murrelet exist across their entire population range than previously believed. Murrelet Conservation Zone 6 population estimates are substantially lower than previously believed, and Zones 3 and 4 have experienced catastrophic oil spills. FWS found that to ensure the eventual long-term survival and recovery of the murrelet, Zones 1 through 4 must be managed to produce and maintain viable marbled murrelet

populations that are well distributed throughout the prospective Zones. Because the "margin of safety" separating murrelets from extinction is much smaller than previously believed, the impact of the HCP on murrelets overall is larger than previously believed.

88. Second, for all the reasons previously described, the effect of the HCP on the local Pacific Lumber murrelet population is greater than previously believed. In its analysis, the BO assumed a smaller effect on local murrelet populations than is now known to be the case, against a backdrop of an overall population level assumed to be much higher than is now known to be the case. Because the HCP has a larger impact to a smaller safety margin for murrelets, the new information shows the HCP adversely affects murrelets to an extent not considered in the BO.

E. May 2004 Scientific Report Warns of Extinction.

- 89. In May of 2004, a scientific report commissioned by FWS was released that shows that the marbled murrelets faces a 100% probability of extinction in California in the next 40 years under current management regimes. *See* Evaluation Report for the 5-Year Status Review of the Marbled Murrelet in Washington, Oregon, and California, March 2004.
- 90. This report concluded that "...the rate and risk of habitat loss in Oregon and California on private lands have likely remained the same since listing (that is, high).... Besides stochastic events, the greatest 'loss' of habitat in the 3-state area has resulted from consultations on individual harvest units, individual trees, and large amounts of suitable habitat through HCPs." <u>Id</u>.
- 91. The report further states that "[h]abitat loss has continued. Known occupied habitat has been lost. Loss of suitable habitat is expected to continue in the future based on ongoing Section 7 consultations and full implementation of approved HCPs. Since 1994, the rate of habitat loss has declined substantially on Federal land under the NWFP, and the rate has likely

declined in Washington where State protection guidelines have been developed. The relative threat of habitat loss has not changed on non-Federal land in Oregon, which has no protective measures, or California, which protects the murrelet under state ESA." Id.

Salmonids and Water Quality

- 92. Water quality is of particular concern for the watersheds within PL lands. The streams within these watersheds are all formally listed as "impaired" under Section 303(d) of the CWA due to excessive amounts of temperature and/or sediment pollution. 33 U.S.C. § 1313(d).
- 93. On September 9, 2000, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board ("Water Board") staff published a report ("Staff Report") detailing deficiencies in the HCP that fail to protect beneficial water uses, and proposing additional requirements that are necessary to comply with applicable water quality standards.
- 94. New information in the Staff Report includes the following: (1) evidence that the HCP's Mass Wasting Avoidance Strategy will not avoid landslides because slides occur on slopes not identified for protection and because it fails to model the effect of logging on landslides; (2) evidence that HCP interim streamside buffers may not be effective in mitigating discharges of fine sediment; and (3) evidence that Bear Creek and the North Fork Elk River will not recover as anticipated in the HCP, especially in the short-term (regarding Bear Creek, *see also* Water Board Staff Non-concurrence with Second Review Team Chairman's Recommendation of Approval for Timber Harvest Plan (THP) 1-01-112 HUM "Bear Thin").
- 95. The Water Board has identified other new information indicating deficiencies in how PL's HCP works in practice. For example, the Water Board published information indicating that field verification of mass-wasting areas would only be done to disqualify areas suspected of being prone to landsliding, and not to identify new landslide areas that had been

1	missed. See Water Board Staff Response to Testimony by Thomas E. Koler.
2	The Water Board has also shown that PL's logging operations under its HCP allow high-impact
3	silivicultural methods that violate water quality standards for turbidity, sediment, temperature,
4	and other pollution. For example, with respect to a recent PL Timber Harvest Plan ("THP"), the
5	Water Board stated:
678	The THP proposes felling large Old Growth trees on steep slopes and dragging them upslope long distances with cables to the ridgeline. We anticipate that proposed winter operations in the plan area will elevate soil transport into the nearby watercourses, in violation of Basin Plan standards.
9	See Water Board Staff Non-concurrence with Second Review Team Chairman's
10	Recommendation of Approval for Timber Harvest Plan (THP) 1-04-220 HUM, October 26,
11	2004. Regarding another logging operation, the Water Board stated:
12 13 14 15	We are concerned that THP 1-03-126 HUM, as proposed for approval by CDF Second Review Team chair's recommendation, will violate our Basin Plan prohibitions and narrative water quality objectives through discharge of sediment, add to the existing nuisance flooding condition by itself and/or when combined with other CDF-approved THPs in the watershed as a cumulative effect that represents an ongoing threat to the public safety, health, and welfare for those residents that reside in the Freshwater Creek Watershed.
17	See Water Board Staff Non-concurrence with Second Review Team Chairman's
18	Recommendation of Approval for Timber Harvest Plan (THP) 1-03-126 HUM, November 18,
19	2003. The Water Board also noted that
20	[O]n December 3, 2003, the Regional Water Board unanimously adopted a series
21	of motions upon concluding that additional regulatory and non-regulatory actions, beyond those currently in place under the California Forest Practice Rules and the
22	Pacific Lumber Company'sHabitat Conservation Plan, are necessary to address water quality impacts due to the rate and scale of land disturbing activities[I]t is
23	necessary to incorporate the sediment offset strategyin order to mitigate for sediment discharges contributing to cumulative impacts to the beneficial uses of
24	water. We believe that, without such mitigation in place, this THP does not comply with the Basin Plan
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See Water Board Staff Non-concurrence with Second Review Team Chairman's Recommendation of Approval for Timber Harvest Plan (THP) 1-04-001 HUM. The Water Board has issued numerous other "non-concurrence" letters that set forth the reasons it believes PL's logging operations violate applicable water quality standards. E.g., Water Board Staff non-concurrences for THPs 1-01-141 HUM, 1-01-318 HUM, 1-01-345 HUM, 1-01-363 HUM, 1-01-387 HUM, 1-01-404 HUM, 1-02-052 HUM, 1-02-197 HUM, 1-02-218 HUM, 1-02-245 HUM, 1-02-258 HUM, 1-02-269 HUM, 1-03-002 HUM, 1-03-007 HUM, 1-03-018 HUM, 1-03-051 HUM, 1-03-053 HUM, 01-03-125 HUM, 1-03-126 HUM, 1-03-140 HUM, 1-03-177 HUM, 1-03-198 HUM, 1-04-001 HUM, 1-04-079 HUM, 1-04-155 HUM, 1-04-168 HUM, 1-04-184 HUM, and others.

- 96. Under California state water quality standards, Class I streams are defined as those that currently support or could support fish. Class II streams are those supporting other aquatic life, including amphibians and invertebrates. Class III streams are those that do not support aquatic life.
- 97. In 2002, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board commissioned an independent panel of scientists to examine the impacts of PL's logging on the beneficial uses of water.
- 98. In January 2003, the Humboldt Watersheds Independent Scientific Review Panel released its report, which unanimously concluded that "the THP-SYP-HCP structure lacks some of the key elements needed to move toward and assure attainment of water quality standards."
- 99. In February 2003, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board asked the Independent Scientific Review Panel to do a more detailed analysis of PL's HCP.

 Specifically, the Regional Board asked the Panel to examine the prescriptions and protections of

the HCP, developed as part of the Aquatic Conservation Plan, (and SYP/THP process) and their effectiveness in limiting sediment production and allowing for the recovery of the beneficial uses in five impacted watersheds. In August 2003, the Panel again issued a unanimous report, concluding that "the HCP/SYP/THP structure and the corresponding Watershed Analysis process cannot be relied upon to meet water quality." It further elaborated:

The Panel has concluded that these planning processes are unlikely, at the current rate of logging, to limit sediment production sufficient to allow timely recovery of the beneficial uses of water. For example, in Freshwater [Creek], the harvest and road construction rates over the last five years have been extremely high and have impacted a significant portion of that watershed. These activities and impacts are documented in the Freshwater Watershed Analysis, a centerpiece of the HCP/SYP planning process. The Panel concludes that the approval of plans generating this documented level of impact constitutes a strong indication that this planning process will not result in recovery of this watershed. The Panel points out that the other four watersheds have also received extensive disturbance from logging.

- as effective as described in the BO and as required under the CWA. The result is that logging activities pursuant to the HCP have increased and will continue to increase the amount of sediment introduced to the salmon stream habitat, which has adverse effects on coho salmon, chinook salmon, coastal cutthroat trout, and steelhead trout.
- 101. Similarly, the BO underestimates the significant amounts of turbidity resulting from inadequate streamside buffers, which also has an adverse effect on coho. PL's implementation of THPs allowing sediment impacts to Class II and Class III streams have the effect of further harming coho in ways not considered in the BO. These adverse effects require reinitiation of consultation both because they were not considered in the BO and because they show PL has exceeded the specified level of take.
 - 102. The new information about impacts to Bear Creek, North Fork Elk River, and

other watersheds also shows effects on salmon that were not previously considered, because they show those watersheds will not recover as anticipated in the BO, especially in the short-term. This harm to coho salmon, chinook salmon, coastal cutthroat trout, and steelhead trout habitat also exceeds the specified level of take of coho salmon.

- 103. There is documented evidence showing that even if the provisions of the HCP and the Aquatic Conservation Plan are strictly adhered to, they are nonetheless inadequate to protect salmon and water quality. For example, the Independent Scientific Review Panel, commissioned by the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, noted that, "[e]ven if fully implemented as envisaged, it is the Panel's judgment that the HCP/SYP/THP structure cannot be relied upon to meet water quality objectives due to eight critical shortcomings."
- 104. This information also demonstrates that the HCP and ITP are not in accordance with applicable water quality standards, and are therefore in violation of the CWA.

Pacific Lumber's Ongoing Violations

- 105. Since issuance of the HCP, PL has continued to violate logging practices. The California Department of Forestry ("CDF") and California Department of Fish and Game ("DFG") have cited the company with at least 325 violations of the California Forest Practices Rules and its HCP in the last five years. Many of these violations resulted in serious irreparable damage to fish and wildlife habitat.
- 106. Many of these violations involved PL illegally cutting trees in riparian management zones ("RMZs") by "misclassifying" streams, constructing fuel breaks, or simply cutting over boundary lines.
- 107. RMZs are critical in providing properly functioning habitat conditions for salmonids. Functions of riparian zones include: providing shade and cooler water temperatures;

filtering sediment, chemicals, and nutrients from upslope sources; stabilizing stream banks by providing a root system on banks and floodplains; recruitment of "large woody debris," which create pools, shade, and other complex stream characteristics that salmon need. Loss of riparian vegetation results in increased sediment delivery to streams from erosion on logged slopes and may also destabilize streambanks, leading to increased fine sediment deposition from eroding banks.

- are termed "large woody debris" (LWD). Riparian zones serve as the primary source of LWD. In smaller channels, woody debris limits the amount of sediment that can enter a stream by trapping that sediment. It can also stabilize debris and sediment that result from landslides. LWD also helps stabilize stream banks. In larger channels, wood accumulation can trigger the accumulation of spawning gravel for fish, create backwaters, and cause pools to form.
- 109. Several of these violations involved logging of very large, old growth redwood trees, including trees more than nine feet in diameter.
- 110. By misclassifying streams, failing to identify streams all together, and otherwise cutting into "no-cut" riparian zones, PL's logging has resulted in significant degradation of watersheds that provide habitat for the federally threatened coho and chinook salmon and steelhead trout.
- 111. DFG and CDF issued 31 violations to PL for "misclassifying" watercourses or failing to identify watercourses all together. In these instances, streams received smaller buffers than required, or no buffers at all. For example, in Shaw Creek Grove, PL misclassified a stream as one not supporting aquatic life (Class III). When DFG discovered the error, trees had already been felled in an area that properly should have been a "no-cut" zone. Large, old trees that are

crucial in protecting streams from excessive sedimentation, including one measuring 8 feet in diameter, were cut in this "no-cut" zone.

- 112. PL received 35 violations for other illegal cutting in riparian areas, with logging in the "no-cut" zones and cutting more than allowed in "selective entry bands." For instance, in the Eel River watershed, DFG found that two ancient redwoods were cut within what should have been a "no-cut" zone. One stump measured nine feet in diameter while the other measured six feet in diameter.
- 113. The number and nature of these violations suggests that it is no accident that they are occurring and that the largest trees are falling. For example, in issuing one violation, DFG noted that "[b]lue flagging, which is used to demark a Class III watercourse, was hanging four feet from the tree stump."
- 114. Two hundred forty one of the 325 violations, or approximately 75%, resulted in degraded water quality. Twenty-three of those violations were issued because logging operations created large areas of exposed soil next to streams that were left untreated. Forty-six violations were issued for stream crossings, with many of these noting concern at multiple locations. These actions results in significant soil erosion and sedimentation. Sedimentation can have devastating impacts to salmonids.
- 115. Twenty-six of the 325 violations involved illegal logging operations within marbled murrelet habitat.
- 116. Fourteen of these violations involved unlawful logging in northern spotted owl habitat.
- 117. This systematic pattern of violation correspondence to PL's general practice of violating the spirit as well as the letter of the HCP and ITP. Since approval of the HCP and

intensive timber harvesting of the prime old growth and residual stands within its lands covered by the HCP. On information and belief, PL's accelerated and intensified program of timber harvesting has resulted in a higher level of take of the marbled murrelet and its habitat, and of coho salmon and its habitat, than was considered or provided for in the BO, HCP, or ITP. PL's accelerated logging of the remaining old growth stands on its lands also has contributed to and exacerbated the degradation of water quality in the affected watercourses.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION (Against Federal Defendants) VIOLATION OF THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT Failure to Reinitiate Consultation

- 118. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference all preceding paragraphs.
- 119. Federal Defendants are in violation of Section 7 (a)(2) of the ESA and the APA by failing to ensure through initiation or reinitiation of formal consultation that the effects of PL's timber operations carried out pursuant to its HCP and ITP are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the marbled murrelet, coho salmon, chinook salmon, steelhead trout, and coastal cutthroat trout, or adversely modify their critical habitats. 16 U.S.C. § 1536(a)(2); 50 C.F.R. § 402, 5 U.S.C. § 706.
- 120. Federal Defendants have maintained involvement and control over the provisions of the HCP and are also independently authorized under law to require reinitiation of consultation. The HCP contains numerous provisions authorizing NOAA Fisheries and FWS involvement and control over PL land management practices, including participation in the development of new standards, veto power over proposed activities, and actual selection of watershed site prescriptions. The Pacific Lumber HCP is a multi-species plan where a focus on certain species is intended to inure to the benefit of all covered species.

- 121. Federal involvement in managing the effects of the PL HCP on covered species is also authorized by law, above and beyond that involvement described in the HCP. First, federal agencies have the ability to take remedial conservation actions outside of PL's property in response to new information about the effect of the HCP on covered species. See 63 Fed. Reg. 8,859, 8,862 (1998). Second, both FWS and NOAA Fisheries are authorized by law to impose additional requirements upon PL. See, e.g., 50 C.F.R. § 17.32(b)(6). Finally, both NOAA Fisheries and FWS are authorized by law to revoke the ITP for PL, either through general permitting authority or through specific authority. See, e.g., 50 C.F.R. § 17.32(b)(8); 64 Fed. Reg. 32,706, 32,709 (1999).
- 122. The agency "shall" reinitiate formal consultation with FWS "(b) If new information reveal effects of the action that may affect listed species or critical habitat in a manner or to an extent not previously considered; (c) If the identified action is subsequently modified in a manner that causes an effect to the listed species or critical habitat that was not considered in the biological opinion...." 50 C.F.R. §§ 402.16(b) and 402.16(c). The facts outlined constitute new information which reveals that the marbled murrelets, coho salmon, chinook salmon, coastal cutthroat trout, and steelhead trout may be affected in a manner and/or to an extent not previously considered.
- 123. Federal Defendants' failure to reinitiate consultation constitutes an ongoing violation of the ESA and APA and an evasion of their important non-discretionary duties. 16 U.S.C. § 1536(a)(2); 50 C.F.R. § 402, 5 U.S.C. §§ 701-706.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION (Against Federal Defendants) VIOLATION OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT Failure to Prepare Supplemental EIS

124. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference all preceding paragraphs.

- 125. NEPA requires an agency to prepare a supplement to its NEPA document if the agency makes substantial changes in the proposed action that are relevant to environmental concerns. 40 C.F.R. §1502.9(c)(1)(i).
- 126. Federal agencies must also prepare supplements to either draft or final EIS's if there "are significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed action or its impacts." 40 C.F.R. § 1502.9 (c)(1)(ii).
 - 127. The Federal Defendants continue to sanction activities pursuant to the HCP.
- 128. The Federal Defendants have violated NEPA because the agency has failed to supplement the EIS for the HCP despite the fact that PL is managing the land inconsistent with the HCP.
- 129. The Federal Defendants are also required to supplement the EIS because there is significant new information, as outlined in the Factual Background Section above, concerning environmental impacts being imposed by PL's timber operations.
- 130. For example, water quality standards have been violated on a habitual basis and this constitutes significant new information which "presents a seriously different picture of the likely environmental consequences of the proposed action not adequately envisioned by the original EIS." See Wisconsin v. Weinberger, 745 F.2d 412, 420 (7th Cir. 1984).
- 131. The continual, systematic violation of water quality standards due to PL's timber operations since the approval of the HCP and ITP is reflected in the litany of non-concurrences and objections filed by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board for Region No. 1 (North Coast) in response to THPs filed by PL.
- 132. Further, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board Staff Report includes new information concerning the HCP's contribution to further degrading of water

quality. The Staff Report also indicates that coho salmon are being adversely impacted in a manner not previously considered.

- 133. Additionally, an independent Scientific Review Panel released reports examining the prescriptions and protections of the HCP (and SYP/THP process) and their effectiveness in limiting sediment production and allowing for the recovery of the beneficial uses in five impacted watersheds. The Panel concluded that "the HCP/SYP/THP structure and the corresponding Watershed Analysis process cannot be relied upon to meet water quality."
- 134. New information concerning impacts to murrelets constitutes significant new information. Oil spills have had a greater impact on marbled murrelets than expected by the BO. Murrelets are not using some of the conserved habitat established in the HCP that the BO anticipated would be used. FWS has underestimated the extent of take. Fewer murrelet exist across their entire population range than previously believed. Additionally, a May of 2004, a scientific report commissioned by FWS was released that shows that the marbled murrelets faces a 100% probability of extinction in California in the next 40 years under current management regimes.
- 135. Additionally, the Statement of Decision in EPIC v. California Department of
 Forestry and Fire Protection; California Department of Fish and Game; and Pacific Lumber
 Company, CV 990445 (July 22, 2003), by Judge John J. Golden of the Superior Court of
 California, Humboldt County ("Statement of Decision"), concerning Pacific Lumber's
 HCP/Sustained Yield Plan ("SYP") constitutes significant new information. The Statement of
 Decision makes several findings concerning California Department of Fish and Game's
 ("CDFG") and California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's ("CDF") state approval
 of the HCP and accompanying state NEPA document. The Court found that the SYP is fatally

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flawed in its format, content and processing and that if PL is to successfully prosecute the submission of an SYP, the process must begin anew. PL has not restarted the process. Specifically, the court found, among other things, that the ITP (1) failed to fully mitigate all impacts to the marbled murrelet; (2) improperly authorized take of unlisted species; (3) illegally authorized take of northern spotted owls; and (4) violates the public trust doctrine.

- 136. Furthermore, the CDF and CDFG have charged PL with at least 325 violations of the California Forest Practices Rules and its HCP in the last five years.
- 137. Numerous pieces of significant new information have come to light requiring preparation of a supplemental EIS.
- 138. The Federal Defendants' actions were taken not in accordance with the law, without observance of procedures required by law, and are arbitrary and capricious within the meaning of the APA. 5 U.S.C. §§ 701-706.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION (Against Federal Defendants) VIOLATION OF THE CLEAN WATER ACT Violation of CWA Water Quality Standards and Antidegradation Policy

139. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference all preceding paragraphs.

The Clean Water Act requires each state to develop and implement water quality

- standards to protect and enhance the quality of water within the state. 33 U.S.C. §§1311(b)(1)(C); 1313(c)(2)(A). State water quality standards must set forth the designated uses of the relevant waters. 33 U.S.C. § 1313(c)(2)(A). The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board has been delegated the authority to promulgate water quality standards for the region in question.
- 141. Section 303 of the Clean Water Act also contains an antidegradation policy. 33U.S.C. § 1313. The antidegradation policy provides that "[e]xisting instream water uses and the

level of water quality necessary to protect the existing uses shall be maintained and protected."

40 C.F.R. § 131.12 (a). The "Tier 1" protection of the antidegradation policy constitutes the minimum level of protection that must be afforded to all waters. The Environmental Protection Agency interprets this level of protection to mean "[n]on-aberrational resident species must be protected, even if not prevalent in number or importance. Water quality should be such that it results in no mortality and no significant growth or reproductive impairment of resident species. Any lowering of water quality below this full level of protection is not allowed An existing aquatic community composed entirely of invertebrates and plants, such as may be found in a pristine alpine tributary stream, should still be protected whether or not such a stream supports a fishery." Water Quality Standards Handbook: Second Edition, U.S. EPA, August 1994.

- 142. The "Tier 2" level of the antidegradation policy provides protection for those waterbodies that have water quality exceeding that necessary to support the propagation of fish, shellfish and wildlife and recreation in and on the water. 40 C.F.R. § 131.12(a)(2). These waters cannot be degraded unless there is a full antidegradation review that includes extensive public involvement and which finds it is necessary to degrade the water to accommodate important economical or social development. <u>Id</u>. In allowing such degradation or lowering of water quality to occur, "the state shall assure that there shall be achieved . . . all cost-effective and reasonable best management practices for nonpoint source control." <u>Id</u>. Even so, when a determination is made that degrades water quality in these waters, the existing uses, including those that exceed the "fishable/swimmable" standard, must be fully protected and may not be degraded in any circumstance.
- 143. The highest level of protection afforded by the antidegradation policy is for "high quality waters [that] constitute an outstanding National resource, such as waters of National and

State parks and wildlife refuges and waters of exceptional recreational or ecological significance." 40 C.F.R. § 131.12(a)(3). Referred to as "Tier 3" protection, this section states that water of this exceptional quality "shall be maintained and protected." 40 C.F.R. § 131.12(a)(3).

- 144. The CWA requires all federal agencies to comply with both state water quality standards and the antidegradation policy. 33 U.S.C. §§ 1313, 1323.
- 145. Federal Defendants have failed to comply with the CWA because the agencies have approved an HCP that contains provisions and directives, including an Aquatic Conservation Plan, and an ITP that fail to adequately maintain or protect the benefits that plants, invertebrates, amphibians, mammals, fish, birds, humans, and others derive from the watersheds at issue, in violation of 33 U.S.C. §§ 1251(a), 1288(b), and 1313; 40 C.F.R. § 131.12(a). Federal Defendants' failure to comply with state water quality standards and the antidegradation policy has been verified by on-the-ground implementation of the Federal Defendants' decisions, which has resulted in many water quality violations.
- 146. Federal Defendants' violation of the antidegradation policy has been and continues to be aggravated by the fact that PL has made a concerted effort since the HCP and ITP were approved to accelerate and intensify timber harvesting in its remaining old growth and residual stands. By logging what is left of the old growth on its lands in so short a time, PL's timber harvesting program is having significant harmful effects on and contributing to the degradation of water quality in watercourses and watersheds covered by the HCP.
- 147. Additionally, some of the watercourses subject to the HCP are of exceptional recreational and/or ecological significance, including those that flow through Grizzly Creek State Park (Grizzly Creek, Stevens Creek and the Van Duzen River); Humboldt County Parks such as

Cheatem Grove, Pamplin Grove, and Swimmer's Delight (Van Duzen River); Humboldt Redwood State Park (Eel River and tributaries); and Headwaters Forest Reserve (South Fork Elk River), and those that are designated as Wild and Scenic Rivers (Van Duzen River and Eel River). These waters are outstanding national resources, elevating the necessary protection to that afforded by the Tier III classification. Federal Defendants have failed, through authorization of the HCP and ITP, to ensure that the exceptional water quality of these waters be maintained and protected.

- 148. Federal Defendants cannot approve an HCP or ITP that does not achieve compliance with federal and state water quality standards and requirements and the antidegradation policy. 33 U.S.C. § 1323.
- 149. By approving the HCP and ITP, Federal Defendants have authorized a 50-year logging plan which has and will continue to cause violations of water quality standards and the antidegradation policy, in violation of 33 U.S.C. § 1313.
- 150. In the approval process, Federal Defendants failed to analyze whether the permitted activities under the HCP and ITP would violate water quality standards and the antidegradation policy in the Delta, Main Fork and South Fork of the Eel River, the Elk River, Freshwater Creek, Mad River, Mattole River, and Van Duzen River. Portions of all these rivers are listed as water quality limited segments for elevated temperature and/or sedimentation/siltation and/or turbidity pursuant to the Clean Water Act. 33 U.S.C. § 1313(d). These waterbodies are therefore more susceptible to degradation due to the activities approved in both the HCP and ITP and are entitled to even greater protection under the antidegradation policy.
 - 151. Federal Defendants' approval of the HCP and ITP violates the Clean Water Act,

33 U.S.C. § 1251 et seq., and its implementing regulations.

152. Federal Defendants' actions and omissions in approving the HCP and ITP are arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion, and otherwise not in accordance with law, and therefore, violate the APA, 5 U.S.C. §§ 701-706.

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION (Against Defendant PL and Federal Defendants) VIOLATION OF THE ENDANGED SPECIES ACT Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources

- 153. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference all preceding paragraphs.
- 154. FWS, NOAA Fisheries, and PL are causing an irreversible and irretrievable commitment of resources in violation of section 7(d) of the ESA. 16 U.S.C. § 1536(d). After initiation of consultation under Section 7(a)(2), "the Federal agency and the permit or license applicant shall not make any irreversible or irretrievable commitment of resources with respect to the agency action which has the effect of foreclosing the formulation or implementation of any reasonable and prudent alternative measures which would not violate [Section 7(a)(2)]." <u>Id</u>.
- 155. Because FWS and NOAA Fisheries should already have reinitiated consultation regarding the HCP's impacts on marbled murrelet and coho salmon, the duty to prevent any irreversible or irretrievable commitment already has been triggered and is being violated because the federal agencies are allowing, and PL is proceeding with logging and other activities in the covered species' habitat that have resulted and will continue to result in illegal, irreversible commitment of resources, illegal take of those listed species, and illegal preclusion of the formulation or implementation of reasonable and prudent alternative measures.
- 156. The Defendants' continued allowance of logging under the HCP is therefore arbitrary, capricious, and not in accordance with procedures required by law, in violation of the ESA, 16 U.S.C. § 1536(d), and the APA at 5 U.S.C. §§ 701-706.

FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION- (Against Federal Defendants) VIOLATION OF THE ENDANGERED SPECIES AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE ACTS

Failure to Use Best Scientific and Commercial Data Available

- 157. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference all preceding paragraphs.
- 158. Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act requires that Federal Defendants' Biological Opinion, Habitat Conservation Plan, and Incidental Take Permit ensure that the proposed activities are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of an endangered or threatened species and that those activities will not result in the destruction or adverse modification of the designated critical habitat of the listed species, and that in making those determinations Federal Defendants use the best scientific and commercial data available. 16 U.S.C. § 1536(a)(2).
- 159. At the time the Federal Defendants considered and approved the BO, HCP, and ITP, the best scientific and commercial data available indicated that the proposed action would jeopardize the continued survival and the recovery of listed species, including the marbled murrelet. Federal Defendants did not adequately consider and did not base their jeopardy determinations regarding listed species, including the marbled murrelet, on the best scientific and commercial data available.
- 160. At the time the Federal Defendants considered and approved the BO, HCP, and ITP, the best scientific and commercial data available further indicated that the proposed action would result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated critical habitat of listed species, including the marbled murrelet. Federal Defendants did not adequately consider and did not base their determination regarding the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat of listed species, including the marbled murrelet, on the best scientific and commercial data

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In addition, Federal Defendants failed to use the best available scientific and commercial data in assessing the availability of measures that could minimize and mitigate the harmful impacts of the permitted activities on listed species, including the marbled murrelet. At the time Federal Defendants considered and approved the BO, HCP, and ITP, the best scientific and commercial data available indicated that Defendant PL's proposed mitigation measures would not be as effective as other available mitigation measures at safeguarding the survival and recovery of the listed species, including the marbled murrelet. Federal Defendants did not adequately consider and did not base their approval of Defendant PL's proposed mitigation measures on that data.

- Federal Defendants also failed to use the best available scientific and commercial 162. data in assessing the full availability of measures that could minimize and mitigate the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat resulting from the permitted activities. At the time Federal Defendants considered and approved the BO, HCP, and ITP, the best scientific and commercial data available indicated that Defendant PL's proposed measures would not be as effective as other available measures for minimizing and mitigating the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat resulting from the permitted activities. Federal Defendants did not adequately consider and did not base their approval of Defendant PL's proposed mitigation measures on the best scientific data available.
- 163. The best scientific and commercial data that has been available since the Federal Defendants' approval of the BO, HCP, and ITP – as reflected, for example, in the Evaluation Report for the 5-Year Status Review of the Marbled Murrelet – confirm that the BO, HCP, and ITP were based on an erroneous determination that the proposed actions would not jeopardize

listed species, including the marbled murrelet. These data also confirm that Federal Defendants' erroneous jeopardy determination was the result of Federal Defendants' failure to use the best available scientific and commercial data, and that the activities covered by the BO, HCP, and ITP are jeopardizing the survival and recovery of listed species, including the marbled murrelet. Similarly, the best available data since Federal Defendants' approval of the BO, HCP and ITP confirm that the mitigation measures considered and adopted by the Services have been ineffectual at protecting listed species, including the marbled murrelet.

Defendants' approval of the BO, HCP, and ITP – as reflected, for example, in the Evaluation Report for the 5-Year Status Review of the Marbled Murrelet – confirm that the BO, HCP, and ITP were based on an erroneous determination concerning the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat of listed species, including the marbled murrelet. These data also confirm that Federal Defendants' erroneous destruction or adverse modification determination was the result of Federal Defendants' failure to use the best available scientific and commercial data, and that the activities covered by the BO, HCP, and ITP are resulting in the destruction or adverse modification of the critical habitat for listed species, including the marbled murrelet. Similarly, the best data available since Federal Defendants' approval of the BO, HCP, and ITP confirm that the mitigation measures considered and adopted by Federal Defendants have been ineffectual at minimizing and mitigating the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat.

165. Federal Defendants' approval of the BO, HCP, and ITP thus was not based on, and in fact contradicted, the best available scientific and commercial data concerning the impacts of the activities covered by the BO, HCP, and ITP on the survival and recovery of species listed

as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act, including the marbled murrelet, in violation of 16 U.S.C. § 1536(a)(2). By the same token, Federal Defendants' approval of the BO, HCP, and ITP was not based on, and in fact contradicted, the best available scientific and commercial data concerning the likelihood that the covered activities would result in destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat of listed species, including the marbled murrelet, in violation of 16 U.S.C. § 1536(a)(2). Federal Defendants' approval of the BO, HCP, and ITP also was not based on the best available data concerning the efficacy of available measures to minimize and mitigate the impacts of covered activities on listed species, including the marbled murrelet, and to minimize and mitigate the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat resulting from covered activities, again in violation of 16 U.S.C. § 1536(a)(2).

166. Accordingly, Federal Defendants' approval of the BO, HCP and ITP was arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion, or otherwise not in accordance with law, in violation of 5 U.S.C. § 706(2)(A).

SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION (Against Federal Defendants) VIOLATION OF THE ENDANGERED SPECIES AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE ACTS

Failure to Find Applicant Would to the Maximum Extent Practicable Minimize and Mitigate Take

- 167. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference all preceding paragraphs.
- 168. Section 10(a)(2)(B) of the Endangered Species Act requires Federal Defendants to make several findings when issuing an ITP. Among those findings, Federal Defendants must find that the applicant will, to the maximum extent practicable, minimize and mitigate the impacts of such taking. 16 U.S.C. § 1539(a)(2)(B)(ii). Consequently, Federal Defendants were obliged to find independently that no practicable alternative to Defendant Pacific Lumber's development plan would minimize the taking of listed species, including marbled murrelets.

169. Federal Defendants acknowledged that the most conservative approach to managing non-federal lands for the benefit of murrelets would be to protect all occupied habitat. But after dismissing that option as impracticable, while alluding briefly to the need to make a finding that incidental take will be mitigated and minimized to the maximum extent practicable, Biological Opinion 401-02, Federal Defendants failed to make the required finding that Defendant Pacific Lumber would minimize the impacts of the taking of listed species, including marbled murrelets, "to the maximum extent practicable."

Federal Defendants failed to make this requisite finding.

170. Federal Defendants' authorization of the ITS/ITP without making the requisite finding that the covered activities would minimize and mitigate the taking of listed species, including marbled murrelets, to the maximum extent practicable violates 16 U.S.C. § 1539(a)(2)(B)(ii) and is arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion, or otherwise not in accordance with law in violation of 5 U.S.C. § 706(2)(A).

SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION (Against Defendant PL and Federal Defendants) VIOLATION OF THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT Unlawful Take of Marbled Murrelet and Coho Salmon

- 171. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference all preceding paragraphs.
- 172. Section 9 of the Endangered Species Act prohibits any person, including any federal agency or private corporation, from "taking" or allowing "take" of a listed species unless such take has been authorized in an incidental take statement issued pursuant to section 7(b)(4) or an incidental take permit issued pursuant to section 10(a)(2) of the ESA. 16 U.S.C. § 1538(a)(2).
- 173. Section 9 also prohibits any person from soliciting another person to commit unauthorized take of a listed species. 16 U.S.C. § 1538(g).

- 174. As alleged in the Fifth and Sixth Causes of Action, the BO, HCP and ITP purporting to cover the activities of Defendant Pacific Lumber, its subsidiaries and contractors that has caused and continues to cause take of marbled murrelet and coho salmon are invalid because they do not comply with sections 7 and 10 of the ESA, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1536, 1539, and were approved by the Federal Defendants in violation of the Administrative Procedure Act, 5 U.S.C. § 706(2)(A).
- 175. As alleged in the First Cause of Action, the BO, HCP and ITP also are invalid, and the Federal Defendants are in violation of their duty under section 7 of the ESA to reinitiate consultation, because of new information that reveals that the listed species, including marbled murrelet and coho salmon, may be effected by the covered activities in a manner or to an extent not previously considered.
- 176. Pursuant to section 10 of the ESA, the Federal Defendants are required to revoke the ITP if they find that the permittee is not complying with the terms and conditions of the permit. 16 U.S.C. § 1539(a)(2)(C). As alleged in paragraphs 105 117 of this Complaint, Defendant PL has committed hundreds of violations of state law, the ESA, and the terms and conditions of the HCP and ITP since the HCP and ITP were approved. Accordingly, the ITP is no longer valid and must be revoked.
- 177. Upon information and belief, Plaintiffs believe that since February 1999, when the Federal Defendants approved and issued the BO, HCP and ITP at issue in this case, Defendant Pacific Lumber, and contractors used by Pacific Lumber to conduct covered activities, have taken and continue to take both marbled murrelets and coho salmon by conducting timber harvesting activities on lands covered by the HCP and ITP which have resulted and continue to result in significant habitat modification or degradation that significantly impairs essential

behavioral patterns of marbled murrelets and coho salmon.

- 178. On April 3, 2002, pursuant to the 60-day notice requirement of the citizen suit provision of the ESA, Plaintiff EPIC sent to Defendants, by certified mail, written notice of intent to sue for violations of sections 7 and 9 of the ESA, including illegal take of marbled murrelet and coho salmon.
- 179. Defendant Pacific Lumber's acts and omissions in taking marbled murrelet and coho salmon, and Federal Defendants' acts and omissions in allowing that take to occur, violate section 9 of the Endangered Species Act. 16 U.S.C. § 1538(a)(1)(B); 50 C.F.R. § 17.3.

EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION (Against Defendant FWS) VIOLATION OF THE ENDANGERED SPECIES AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE ACTS

Issuance of Incidental Take Permit for Northern Spotted Owl Violates State Law

- 180. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference all preceding paragraphs.
- 181. The Federal Defendants are prohibited from authorizing incidental take through incidental take statements or incidental take permits if the proposed activity would be otherwise unlawful under state or federal law. 16 U.S.C. §§ 1536(b)(3)-(4); 1539(a)(1)(B); 50 C.F.R. §§ 402.02, 402.14(i).
- 182. The FWS determined that an undetermined number of northern spotted owls could be taken as a result of activities taken under the HCP/SYP. BO at 408. Although FWS failed to quantify the amount of take that it authorized, over the 50-year HCP period, the loss of at least 48 activity centers, harassment of at least 156 activity centers due to disturbance during the breeding season, and an undetermined number of deaths and injuries are expected. <u>Id</u>.
- 183. However, no take, whatsoever, of northern spotted owls can be authorized pursuant to state law. California Fish and Game Code Section 3503.5. Section 3503.5 (bird-of-

prey prohibition) states that:

It is unlawful to take, possess, or destroy or destroy any birds in the orders Falconiformes or Strigiformes (birds-of-prey) or to take, possess, or destroy the nest or eggs of any such bird except as otherwise provided by this code or any regulation adopted pursuant thereto.

- 184. FWS authorization of incidental take of NSOs is in violation of the ESA because the proposed activity for which the ITS/ITP was granted is not an otherwise lawful activity under California state law. Section 3503.5 explicitly prohibits destruction of NSOs, their nests, or their eggs. FWS has specifically authorized PL to destroy 48 activity centers and allowed for harassment of at least 156 activity centers.
- 185. Federal Defendants' ITP is therefore arbitrary and capricious, an abuse of discretion, and not in accordance with law, in violation of the Secretary's duties under the ESA. 16 U.S.C. §§ 1536(a)(2), 1539(a)(1)(B) and 5 U.S.C. 706(2)(A).

NINTH CAUSE OF ACTION (Against Defendant PL) Violation of California Business and Professions Code Section 17200 et seq.—Unlawful Business Practices

- 186. The preceding paragraphs of this complaint are incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein.
- 187. Defendant PL has committed hundreds of violations of the California Forest Practice Act, California Forest Practice Rules, the ESA, the HCP, and its ITP, thereby violating Sections 7 and 10 of the ESA and its implementing regulations, and Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations sections 913, 914, 916, 923, 1035, 1039, in the course of their business operations. These violations constitute unlawful business acts or practices under Business and Professions Code section 17200, and Defendant PL is subject to the relief provided by section 17200 et seq.

188. Plaintiffs, their members and staff, other persons in interest, and the general public have been injured by defendants' acts of unfair competition. These violations are continuing and will continue unless enjoined by this Court.

TENTH CAUSE OF ACTION (Against Defendant PL) Violation of California Business and Professions Code Section 17200 et seq.—Unlawful Business Practices

- 189. The preceding paragraphs of this complaint are incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein.
- 190. Defendant PL has committed hundreds of violations of the California Forest Practice Act, California Practice Rules, the ESA, the HCP, and the ITP, thereby violating Sections 7 and 10 of the ESA and its implementing regulations, and Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations sections 913, 914, 916, 923, 1035, 1039.
- 191. As well as being unlawful, defendants' actions are unfair business acts or practices because they significantly threaten or harm competition. A defendant that conducts illegal activities from which it profits is competing unfairly against its competitors who use lawful means to produce their products and services. Here, Defendant PL profit from their illegal logging in violation of federal and state laws, and their profits are amplified because they have avoided the costs of complying with federal and state laws. Their profits have been further amplified because, in addition to revenue from timber sales, they have received land and substantial amounts of taxpayer money from the federal and state governments as part of the Headwaters Agreement on the condition that they would log only in conformance with the HCP and all other applicable laws and regulations. Their competitors in the timber market who log timber in compliance with state and federal environmental laws are at a competitive disadvantage because they incur and internalize the substantial costs of environmental

compliance as defendants do not.

192. Plaintiffs, their members and staff, other persons in interest, and the general public have been injured by Defendant PL's acts of unfair competition. These violations are continuing and will continue unless enjoined by this Court.

ELEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION (Against Defendant PL) Violation of California Business and Professions Code Section 17200 et seq.—Unfair, Deceptive, Untrue or Misleading Advertising

- 193. The preceding paragraphs of this complaint are incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein.
- 194. Defendant PL has committed hundreds of violations of the California Forest Practice Act and California Forest Practice Rules, the ESA, the HCP, and the ITP, thereby violating Sections 7 and 10 of the ESA and its implementing regulations and Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations sections 913, 914, 916, 923, 1035, 1039.
- 195. Despite Defendant PL's hundreds of violations, they falsely advertise themselves to the public as responsible environmental stewards who practice sustainable forestry in compliance with all applicable environmental laws and regulations.
- 196. For example, Pacific Lumber's website states, "Environmental sustainability is a commitment to the ecosystem and the forest, streams, fish and wildlife that are part of it. In addition, it is a commitment to our customers, our employees, and our business partners that we are following laws and regulations, using resources wisely, recycling, and reducing pollution."

 See http://palco.com/commitment_sustain_environ.cfm> (emphasis added).
- 197. Further, Defendant PL has carried out an advertising campaign with many deceptive and misleading statements. As one example, PL produced an advertisement that appeared in the *Eureka Times Standard* that stated:

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Anti-timber activists are spinning modern-day myths as part of their obsessive campaign against [Pacific Lumber], telling wild tales of some horrible beast that ravages the land, defiles the water, and murders fish in their beds. But the power of myth, ancient or modern, can never stand up to the facts.

A separate advertisement, also printed in the *Eureka Times Standard*, made the claim that:

In [Pacific Lumber's] forests, streams with fish are bordered by lush natural buffers, some as wide as a football field with the stream running through the 50yard line. In these buffers, trees and vegetation are preserved to keep streams cool and clear. [Pacific Lumber] even protects streams without fish. In fact, roughly half of [Pacific Lumber] land is currently off-limits to harvest for the protection of fish and wildlife habitat....

Another newspaper advertisement stated:

...[S]ustainable forestry—It's what has kept us in business for more than 140 years. In fact, [Pacific Lumber's] harvest practices have been certified by the Sustainable Forestry Initiative program, a national organization dedicated to sustainable forestry.

Defendants also promulgated similarly misleading radio and television advertisements that began airing on Humboldt County stations in 2003, including, but not limited to, commercials on KHUM and KSLG, among other radio stations, and Channels 3 (KIEM) and 29 (FOX). Together and separately, these and other advertisements from PL are designed to create a false image of the company, an attempt to deceive others into believing that it is a responsible steward of the environment.

- Defendant PL also misleads the public by advertising its lumber under the so-198. called "Sustainable Forestry Initiative" (SFI) program. Under the SFI program, PL falsely represents that it complies with all of the following in conducting its timber harvesting operations:
 - 3.1 Sustainable Forestry To practice sustainable forestry to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs by practicing a land stewardship ethic that integrates the reforestation, managing, growing, nurturing and harvesting of trees for useful products with the

conservation of soil, air and water quality, biological diversity, wildlife and aquatic habitat, recreation and aesthetics.

- 3.2 Responsible Practices To use in forests, and promote among other forest landowners, sustainable forestry practices that are economically, environmentally and socially responsible.
- 3.3 Forest Health and Productivity To protect forests from wildfire, pests, diseases and other damaging agents to maintain and improve long-term forest health and productivity.
- 3.4 Protecting Special Sites To manage forests and lands of special significance (e.g., biologically, geologically, culturally or historically significant) in a manner that takes into account their unique qualities.
- 3.5 Legal Compliance To comply with applicable federal, state or local forestry and related environmental laws and regulations.

Sustainable Forestry Initiative's Standard and Verification Procedures, 2002 – 2004 edition.

- 199. These representations are false, deceptive, untrue, unfair, and misleading because Defendant PL has violated and continues to violate applicable laws and regulations, including, but not limited to, the California Forest Practice Act, California Forest Practice Rules, Endangered Species Act, and the Code of Federal Regulations. Further, these violations demonstrate that Defendant PL is not economically, environmentally, and/or socially responsible, and has caused significant adverse impacts on fish, wildlife, water quality, forest health and productivity, and lands of special significance.
- 200. By these representations and otherwise, PL's marketing of its timber misleads consumers into believing erroneously that PL's timber is an environmentally responsible "green" product.
- 201. At the same time, in order to comply with the terms of its junk bond financing, PL has been dumping its falsely labeled lumber on the market at prices below the cost of production of its competitors who produce "green" lumber that truly has been harvested by sustainable and

Department of Forestry served Defendant PL with notices of each and every violation of its HCP, California Forest Practice Act, and the California Forest Practice Rules.

- 210. These untrue and misleading statements are violations of Business and Professions Code section 17500 et seq. and are actionable under Section 17535. As violations of section 17500, they also constitute violations of Section 17200 and are actionable under 17203.
- 211. Plaintiffs, their members and staff, other persons in interest, and the general public have been injured by Defendant PL's false advertising. These violations are continuing and will continue unless enjoined by this Court.

FOURTEENTH CAUSE OF ACTION (Against Defendant PL) Violation of California Business and Professions Code Section 17580.5—Misleading Environmental Marketing Claims

- 212. The preceding paragraphs of this complaint are incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein.
- 213. Defendant PL has made false, deceptive, fraudulent, untrue, and misleading statements as described above. These statements are untruthful, deceptive, or misleading environmental marketing claims within the meaning of Business and Professions Code Section 17580.5 and are actionable under Section 17535.
- 214. Plaintiffs their members and staff, other persons in interest, and the general public have been injured by Defendant PL's misleading environmental marketing claims. These violations are continuing and will continue unless enjoined by this Court.

PLAINTIFFS' PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs respectfully request that this Court grant the following relief:

1. Order, declare and adjudge that Federal Defendants are in violation of 16 U.S.C. §

1536(a)(2) and its implementing regulations by failing to reinitiate consultation with themselves concerning new information which reveals impacts to marbled murrelets, coho and chinook salmon and coastal cutthroat and steelhead trout that were not previously considered by Federal Defendants;

- 2. Order, declare and adjudge that Federal Defendants are in violation of 42 U.S.C. § 4332 and its implementing regulations by not supplementing the EIS for the HCP/ITP despite the fact that significant new information exists concerning the impact of the ongoing action on the environment;
- 3. Order, declare and adjudge that Federal Defendants are in violation of 33 U.S.C. § 1323 by permitting timber operations which are resulting in the systematic violation of water quality standards and the Clean Water Act's antidegradation policy;
- 4. Order, declare and adjudge that Federal Defendants and Defendant PL are in violation of Section 7(d) of the ESA at 16 U.S.C. § 1536(d) by irreversibly and irretrievably committing resources;
- 5. Order, declare and adjudge that Federal Defendants' approval of the Biological Opinion, Habitat Conservation Plan, and Incidental Take Permit was not based on the best scientific and commercial data available and therefore was arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion, or otherwise not in accordance with law, in violation of 5 U.S.C. § 706(2)(A) and 16 U.S.C. § 1536(a)(2);
- 6. Order, declare and adjudge that Federal Defendants' authorization of the Incidental Take Statement/Incidental Take Permit without making the required finding that Defendant PL would, to the maximum extent practicable, minimize and mitigate the impacts of the permitted take of listed species was arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion, or otherwise

not in accordance with law, in violation of 5 U.S.C. § 706(2)(A) and 16 U.S.C. § 1539(a)(2)(B);

- 7. Order, declare and adjudge that Federal Defendants and Defendant PL have violated and continue to violate 16 U.S.C. §§ 1538 (a)(2) and 1538(g), by committing, permitting, or soliciting others to commit the unlawful take of marbled murrelet and coho salmon;
- 8. Order, declare and adjudge that Defendant FWS's authorization of incidental take of NSOs is in violation of the ESA, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1536(b)(3)-(4); 1539(a)(1)(B), because the proposed activity for which the ITS/ITP was granted is not an otherwise lawful activity under California state law;
- 9. Order, declare and adjudge that Defendant PL's violations of the California Forest Practices Act, California Forest Practice Rules, its HCP and the ESA constitute unlawful and unfair business acts or practices under the California Business and Professions Code section 17200;
- 10. Order, declare and adjudge that Defendant PL has made representations which are false, deceptive, untrue, unfair, and misleading and by these acts, defendant PL has engaged in unfair, deceptive, untrue, or misleading advertising within the meaning of section 17200;
- 11. Order, declare and adjudge that the deceptive, untrue, unfair, and misleading statements and advertising made by defendant Pacific Lumber described above are fraudulent business practices within the meaning of section 17200;
- 12. Order, declare and adjudge these untrue and misleading statements are violations of Business and Professions Code section 17500 et seq., are actionable under section 17535, and that as violations of section 17500, they are also automatically violations of section 17200 and actionable under 17203;

- 13. Order, declare and adjudge that these statements are untruthful, deceptive, or misleading environmental marketing claims within the meaning of Business and Professions Code section 17580.5 and are actionable under section 17535;
- 14. Direct by injunctive relief that Federal Defendants are required to take the necessary actions to reinitiate and complete consultation;
- 15. Direct by injunctive relief that Federal Defendants are required to supplement the EIS for the HCP/ITP:
- 16. Direct by injunctive relief that Federal Defendants suspend any previously authorized activities pursuant to the ITP which are resulting in violations of water quality standards and the antidegradation policy, pursuant to 33 U.S.C. § 1323;
- Defendants are precluded from allowing, authorizing or permitting similar activities through the completion of the required consultation process to the extent that such activities are causing, or will cause, irreversible or irretrievable commitments of resources that would have the effect of "foreclosing the formulation or implementation of any reasonable and prudent alternatives measures";
- 18. Direct by injunctive relief, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 706(2)(A) and 16 U.S.C. §§

 1536, 1540, that the BO, HCP, and ITP at issue in this case be set aside as invalid and that

 Federal Defendants be precluded from authorizing or permitting the continuation of Defendant

 PL's timber activities purportedly covered by the invalid BO, HCP, and ITP until such time as

 Federal Defendants have prepared, published for public review and comment, and properly approved a valid BO, HCP, and ITP based on and consistent with the best available scientific and commercial data;

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- 19. Direct by injunctive relief, pursuant to 16 U.S.C. §§ 1538, 1540, that Defendant PL be precluded from engaging in, or soliciting any other to engage in, any timber operations on the lands at issue in this case that are likely to result in take of marbled murrelet or coho salmon, unless and until such activities are authorized by a properly prepared and approved BO, HCP and ITP, and that Federal Defendants be precluded from permitting Defendant to engage in any timber operations likely to result in the take any marbled murrelet or coho salmon until they have properly prepared and approved a valid BO, HCP, and ITP covering such activities and take;
- 20. Direct by injunctive relief, pursuant to 16 U.S.C. §§ 1536, 1539, 1540, that Federal Defendants are precluded from allowing, authorizing or permitting incidental take of northern spotted owls as it is unlawful under state law;
- 21. Direct by injunctive relief that Defendant PL cease further violations of state and federal environmental laws;
- 22. Direct by injunctive relief that Defendant PL cease further violations of the California Business and Professions Code Section 17200 et seq., Section 17500 et seq., and Section 17580.5;
- 23. Direct by injunctive relief that Defendant PL remediate all harm it has caused or contributed to by its violations;
- 24. Order Defendant PL to pay restitution of all money and property that Defendant PL wrongfully acquired by means of unfair competition;
- 25. Award Plaintiffs their reasonable costs, litigation expenses, and attorney fees associated with this litigation as provided by the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. § 1540(g)(4); and/or the Equal Access to Justice Act, 28 U.S.C. § 2412; and California Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5; and

1	26.	Such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper.
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	DATED D	1 20 2004
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